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Message Text

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12
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /075 W
---------- 058344
R 101725Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0076
INFOL AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4191

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS MO
SUBJECT: KENITRA TRIAL

REF: RABAT 4180

1. UNFP LEADER TOLD US IN CONVERSATION SEPT 10 THAT NO WORD HAS YET BEEN HEARD FROM PERSONS ACQUITTED OR GOVEN SUSPENDED SENTENCES AT KENITRA AUG 30. AFTER RELEASE FROM KENITRA PRISON THEY WERE PUT ON MILITARY TRUCKS AND TAKEN TOWARD RABAT. ASSUMPTION IS THAT THEY ARE BEING HELD IN MILITARY CAMP IN RABAT AREA. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS PROFESS HAVE NO INFORMATION CONCERNING THEIR WHEREABOUTS. MINISTERS WHO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO INTERCEDE WITH KING HAVE REPLIED THAT KING STILL HAS HIGH FEVER AND IS NOT AVAILABLE. SOURCE NOTED THAT PICTURES OF SMILING KING RECEIVING SADAT SPECIAL ADVISOR HASSAN TOUHAMI SEPT 7 HAVE BEEN PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS.

2. UNFP LEADER EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT KING HIMSELF IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ARBITRARY CONTINUED DETENTION. HE NOTED REPORT (REFTEL) THAT PRISONERS SANGSONG AFTER VERDICTS ANNOUNCED, BUT SAID THAT SINGING WAS DONE BY THOSE CONDEMNED TO DEATH, NOT BY ACQUITTED. HE ALSO
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DOUBTED SINGING MOTIVATED KING'S REACTION.

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3. ACCORDING UNFP LEADER, KING IS UNDOUBTEDLY FURIOUS AT FACT COURT DID NOT GIVE HARSHER SENTENCES AND ACQUITTED CERTAIN ACCUSED, NOTABLY UNFP MEMBER AHMED BELCADI WHO ADMITTED BREAKING LAW BY MEETING BASRI (AND FOR WHOM TEN-YEAR SENTENCE ASKED BY PROSECUTION) AND DR. OMAR KHATTABI (FIVE YEARS ASKED), WHO ACCORDING SOURCE IS CONSIDERED BY KING TO HAVE HAD ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF AUG 16 COUP ATTEMPT FROM HIS FRIEND LT. COL. AMEKRANE.
SOURCE SAID HE PERSONALLY EXPECTED VERY FEW ACQUITTALS, AND POSSIBLY ONLY ACQUITTAL OF MOHAMED EL YAZGHI WHO HOSPITALIZED SINCE RECEIVING PACKAGE BOMB JAN 13, AND THOUGHT NEARLY ALL WOULD AT LEAST BE GIVEN SHORT OR SUSPENDED SENTENCES. (PROSECUTION HAD REFERRED FATE OF 58 ACCUSED TO "DISCRETION OF COURT" AND FATE OF FOURTEEN ACCUSED TO "APPLICATION OF LAW.)

4. NOTING THAT COURT WAS COMPOSED OF HARD-LINE CIVILIAN JUDGE LAABI AND FOUR MILITARY JUDGES, SOURCE SAID NEARLY ALL MILITARY JUDGES OBVIOUSLY MUST HAVE VOTED CONTRARTY TO SOME OF KING'S INSTRUCTIONS AND THIS MUST BE VERY AGGRAVATING TO KING. NOTING THAT KING HAD ADMITTED GIVING INSTRUCTIONS FOR KENITRA TRIAL FOLLOWING SKHIRAT, SOURCE SAID KING UNDOUBTEDLY HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS AGAIN THIS TIME. MILITARY JUDGES, HE NOTED, INCLUDED FORMER AIDE-DE-CAMP IN ROYAL PALACE. SOURCE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT MILITARY JUDGES HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE COURT THAT IF HIS UNFP COLLEAGUES WERE GUILTY HE WAS TOO AND SHOULD ALSO BE PUNISHED, BUT STATED THAT HE COULD NOT SPEAK WITH KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAD MOTIVATED THEIR UNEXPECTED CLEMENCY.

5. AS DID SOURCE CITED RABAT 4169, UNFP LEADER SAID FOURTEEN ACQUITTED AT CASABLANCA ON SEPTEMBER 2 WERE ALL RELEASED PROMPTLY.
ROCKWELL

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